

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A window operator for controlling the opening and closing movement of a window sash relative to a window frame, the window operator comprising a mounting arrangement wherein the window operator is mountable to an element of the window frame, an elongate threaded member mounted with the mounting arrangement, a drive mechanism to apply a rotational movement to the elongate threaded member, a threaded element located on the elongate threaded member, a hinge by which the window sash is hingedly mountable to the window frame, said hinge being connected to the mounting arrangement whereby the hinge is mountable to said element of the window frame, the window operator further comprising a coupling device connected to and moveable in response to movement of the threaded element on the elongate threaded member, the coupling device being further connected to a part of the hinge wherein movement of the coupling device applies a moving force to said part of the hinge.

2. (Currently Amended) A window operator for controlling the movement of a window sash between open and closed positions relative to a window frame, the window operator comprising a mounting arrangement and drive transfer mountable in a cavity formed between the window sash and window frame when the window sash is in the closed position such that the mounting arrangement and drive transfer are not visible when the window sash is in the closed position, an operator handle and handle mounting mountable to a surface of the window frame, the operator handle being coupled to the drive transfer and the drive transfer being drivingly coupled to an elongate threaded member mounted with the mounting arrangement, a threaded element located on the elongate threaded member and a hinge connected to the mounting arrangement whereby the hinge is mountable to said window frame, the hinge arrangement comprising a sash mounting and at least one arm pivotally coupled at respective ends to the sash mounting and the mounting arrangement, a sliding element associated with the mounting arrangement and coupled to the sash mounting, the sliding element being coupled to the threaded element wherein movement of the threaded element applies a moving force to the hinge to, in use, cause the window sash mounted to the sash mounting to move between said open and closed positions.

3. (Previously Amended) A window operator as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a lost motion mechanism between the threaded element and the coupling, and an engagement device for, in use, engaging with a locking arrangement mountable with ~~a~~ the window sash, the engagement device being movable by said lost motion mechanism to apply a locking action to the locking arrangement.

4. (Currently Amended) A window operator as claimed in claim 1 wherein the coupling device includes a driver element and a follower element, the follower element having a mounting with which at least one arm of the hinge is pivotally attached.

5. (Original) A window operator as claimed in claim 4 wherein the threaded member is housed within an elongate housing the driver element being located externally of the elongate housing and coupled to the threaded element within the elongate housing, the follower being coupled to a sliding element slidingly engaged within the elongate housing.

6. (Original) A window operator as claimed in claim 5 further including an end stop with which the sliding element is engageable.

7. (Original) A window operator as claimed in claim 6 wherein the end stop includes a head lock with which a part of the hinge is engageable.

8. (Currently Amended) A window operator as claimed in claim 5 wherein the elongate housing is attached to the mounting arrangement.

9. Canceled.

10. (Currently Amended) A window operator in combination with a multi-point lock mechanism, the lock mechanism including a first lock element having an engagement member, the window operator including a mounting arrangement, an elongate threaded member mounted with the mounting arrangement, a drive mechanism to apply a rotational movement to the elongate threaded member, a threaded element located on the elongate threaded member, a hinge with which a window sash can be mounted, a coupling device moveable in response to movement of

the threaded element on the elongate threaded member, said coupling device having a driver which upon engagement with the engagement member imparts movement to the first lock element, a lost motion mechanism between the threaded element and the coupling, said engagement member being movable by said lost motion mechanism, and part of the hinge being connected to the coupling such that movement of the coupling results in movement of the hinge.

11. (Original) The combination of claim 10 further including a second lock element coupled to the first lock element by a corner drive.

12. (Original) The combination of claim 11 further including at least one keeper mountable with a part of a window construction, the second lock element including a first projection which when the second lock element is moved to a locking position interengages with a second projection of the keeper.

13. (Original) The combination of claim 11 wherein the corner drive includes a housing formed from first and second housing sections and a flexible elongate element slidably captured between the first and second housing sections.

14. (Original) The combination of claim 13 wherein the first and second housing sections are snap-locked together by clip devices.

15. (Original) The combination of claim 14 wherein the first and second housing sections further include apertures which are aligned upon the first and second housing sections being combined, the aligned openings being such as to receive a mechanical fastener to mount the corner and further fix the first and second housing sections together.

16. (Currently Amended) The combination of claim 15 wherein a connector is fixed to each end of the flexible elongate element, each connector including an elongate opening through which a said mechanical fastener can project.

17. (Currently Amended) The combination of claim ~~240~~ wherein the lost motion coupling is formed by a toggle mechanism and a trigger element mountable with a part of a window construction to induce toggling of the toggle mechanism.